

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB SHUM CI
SUBJECT: TRADE UNION RIGHTS: UNION LEADER FREZ REMOVED

REF: A) SANTIAGO 140, B) 77 SANTIAGO A-33 (NOTAL)

1. CARLOS FREZ BANISHED WITH FIVE OTHER LABOR LEADERS
NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 20, WAS REMOVED JANUARY 18 FROM HIS
POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE PORT WORKERS FEDERATION AL-
THOUGH HE STILL RETAINS HIS JOB AS A DOCK WORKER AND HIS
POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE CIAT-AFFILIATED SINGLE
FEDERATION OF WORKERS (FUT).

2. THE THEN REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF VALPARAISO, ADMIRAL
PAREDA, ISSUED AN ORDER JANUARY 10 UNDER AUTHORITY OF
DECREE LAWS (DL) 1623 AND 349 DEMANDING FREZ' RESIGNATION
AS PRESIDENT OF THE PORT WORKERS FEDERATION. UNDER DL
1623, THE GOVERNOR IS EMPOWERED TO ASK FOR THE REMOVAL
OF ANY PUBLIC SECTOR UNION LEADER FOR "WHATEVER SERIOUS
REASON AFFECTING THE WELL ORDERED FUNCTIONING (BUENA
MARCHA) OF THE INSTITUTION...". DL 349 CONTAINS SANCTIONS
FOR REFUSAL TO OBEY, INCLUDING A MANDATORY JAIL TERM AND
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THE APPLICATION OF DECREE LAW 77. THIS LATTER DECREE,
ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONFISCATION OF THE
GOODS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES FORMING THE UNITED PARTY
(UP) GOVERNMENT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO
PERMIT THE STATE TO CONFISCATE ALL THE PROPERTY AND
POSSESSIONS OF ANY PUBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNION LEADER REFUS-
ING TO COMPLY WITH A VALID AND WRITTEN ORDER FOR HIS RE-

MOVAL.

3. FREZ REFUSED TO OBEY PAREDA'S ORDER AND OBTAINED A LETTER OF SUPPORT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF ALL LOCALS AFFILIATED WITH HIS FEDERATION. HOWEVER, A NEW REGIONAL GOVERNOR, ADMIRAL TRAONCOSO, HAS CONTINUED THE LEGAL PROCESS AND ISSUED A SECOND ORDER JANUARY 18, ORDERING FREZ TO CEASE FUNCTIONING AS PRESIDENT OF THE PORT WORKERS FEDERATION OR FACE SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER DL 349. FREZ BELIEVES HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNOR'S DECREE. BY REFUSAL HE FACES CERTAIN LOSS OF HIS JOB, POSSIBLE CONFISCATION OF EVERYTHING HE OWNS AND A PRISON TERM. A PORT WORKER HAS TOLD LABATT THAT FREZ EXPECTS TO BE TEMPORARILY TRANSFERRED TO THE PORT OF ARICA FOR SIX MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: OF THE SIX LABOR LEADERS BANISHED NOVEMBER 23, FREZ IS ONE OF THE LUCKIER ONES: HE STILL HAS A JOB. ALL BUT ONE OF THE OTHERS (INCLUDING THE SEVENTH MAN, COPPER LEADER ARTURO LATUZ, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CARACAS) HAVE LOST THEIR UNION POSITIONS AND THEIR JOBS, AND HAVE LIMITED PROSPECTS OF FINDING NEW SOURCES OF INCOME. ONE, SEPULVEDA, IS OF COURSE BACK IN THE NORTH AS ONE OF THE GROUP OF 12 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS RUSTICATED JANUARY 13-14.

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